

Application No. 10/602,173 - - - - 2

Claims 1-28 are now present in the application.

In response to the Office Action, applicants elect the species 1 (FIGURES 1-3), the subspecies 6 (wherein the exfoliation device is an abrasive surface) and the subspecies 9 (a probe tip which is not laterally offset, such as that shown in FIGURE 3).

It is understood that the requirement for election between subspecies 6 (wherein the exfoliation device is an abrasive surface as recited in Claim 9) and subspecies 7 (wherein the exfoliation device is a brush as recited in Claim 10) does not apply to any of Claims 1-7 and 11-28. In particular, the requirement for election between subspecies 6 and 7, by its terms, does not apply to Claims 26-28, even though these claims are directed to an exfoliation device.

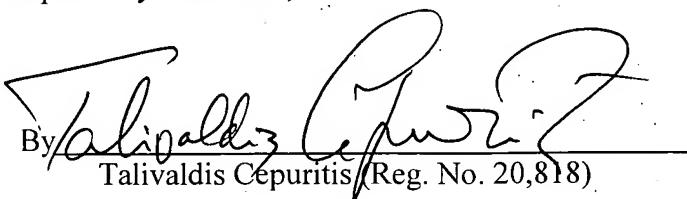
Further, a requirement for election between subspecies 8 (the laterally offset probe tip shown in FIGURES 9 and 9a) and subspecies 9 (a probe tip such as that shown in FIGURE 3 which is not laterally offset) is understood to apply only to Claim 2 from which Claim 3, the only claim directed to a probe tip that is laterally offset, depends.

Accordingly, consonant with the above, applicants identify Claims 1-5, 7-9, 13-14, 25, 26 and 28 as readable on the elected species 1 (shown in FIGURES 1-3). Further, applicants identify Claim 9 as readable on the elected subspecies 6 (wherein the exfoliation device is an abrasive surface as recited in Claim 9), it being understood that the election between subspecies 6 and 7 applies to no claim other than Claims 9 and 10. Also, applicants identify Claims 1-2, 4-5, 7-9, 13-14, 25, 26, 28 as readable on the elected subspecies 9 (shown in FIGURE 3).

Accordingly, in light of the above, an early examination of Claims 1-2, 4-5, 7-9, 13-14, 25, 26 and 28 and an early allowance are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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